

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00053 060226Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9568
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0053

EXDIS

HONG KONG PLEASE PASS TO ASST SEC HOLBROOKE AND AMB WOODCOCK

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M), CH, TW, UR, KN, VN, CB, AF

SUBJ: KENNEDY'S MEETING WITH CPIFA PRESIDENT HAO TEH-CHING

1. SENATOR KENNEDY AND SUBSTANTIVE CODEL MEMBERS MET WITH
CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CPIFA)
PRESIDENT HAO TE-CHING ON JANUARY 1 FROM 4:00 TO 6:00 PM
AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK SAT IN ON SESSION AT REQUEST OF THE
SENATOR. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING FOLLOW.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY OPENED THE SESSION WITH A DETAILED
PRESENTATION WHICH:
--REAFFIRMED HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO NORMALIZATION
OF US-PRC RELATIONS;
--SOLICITED THECHINESE REACTION TO HIS AUGUST 1977 SPEECH
IN BOSTON ADDRESSING NORMALIZATION ISSUES;
--SPELLED OUT THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF HIS LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, INCLUDING A CONCERN FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF
THE LESS WELL OFF;
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--HIGHLIGHTED AREAS OF SOVIET POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL,
MILITARY AND STRATEGIC WEAKNESS VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES;
AND
--EMPHASIZED AMERICAN CAPABILITY AND WILL TO COUNTER THE
SOVIET UNION INTERNATIONALLY.

3. AMBASSADOR HAO, WHO HAS ACQUIRED A WELL-DESERVED

REPUTATION FOR CRUSTINESS AND SHOOT-FROM-THE-HIP CANDOR IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMERICANS, REPLIED IN LOW-KEY FASHION. ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT HIS REMARKS ON TAIWAN LAST SUMMER TO VARIOUS SENATORS (WHICH HAD ALIENATED MANY BY EMPHASIZING O STRONGLY THE PRC'S RIGHT TO LIBERATE TAIWAN BY FORCE), HAO MILDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS VIEWS HAD NOT CHANGED BUT DID NOT ELABORATE.

4. SIMILARLY, HAO SET FOR T THE STANDARD PRC VIEWS ON DETENTE, SOVIET EXPANSIONISM, AND ALLEGED AMERICAN "APPEASEMENT", BUT IN A NONPOLEMICAL MANNER. HE ALLOWED THAT HE COULD EVEN APPRECIATE -- WHILE DISAGREEING WITH -- THE REASONING OF THOS WHO, LIKE THE SENATOR, BELIEVED THAT SALES OF TRAIN AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOVIET UNION INCREASED SOVIET DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDERS AND THUS WEAKENED THE SOVIETS STRATEGICALLY.

5. ASKED ABOUT THE PRC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, HAO SIDESTEPED ON TWO OCCASIONS. HE MERELY EXPRESSED A PRC HOPE THAT THE CONFLICT COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS PREDICATED ON THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. (CPIFA DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL MA CHIA-CHUN HAD VOLUNTEERED THE SAME LINE TO USLO OFFICER THE PRECEEDING DAY WHILE AWAITING ARRIVAL OF CODEL KENNEDY AT CONFIDENTIAL

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6. AT ONE POINT HAO TOLD SENATOR KENNEDY FLATLY THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD NOT INVADE THE SOUTH. ALTHOUGH NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SESSION DIFFER SOMEWHAT, THE CONSENSUS OF THOSE WHO HEARD HAO IS THAT HIS IMPLICIT POINT WAS THAT THE PRC WOULD RESTRAIN ANY AGGRESSIVE MOVE BY PYONGYANG.

7. HAO'S PRESENTATION OF PRC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA ALSO FOLLOWED STANDARD LINES. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, HE STATED THAT THE PRC WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE HORN OF AFRICA AND HAD LONG "ADVOCATED TO BOTH SIDES" (UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT TO BE ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA) THAT THEY SETTLE THEIR PROBLEMS WITHOUT RESORT TO USE OF FORCE.

8. HAO'S RELATIVE WARMTH AND ABSTINANCE FROM BELLICOSE FORMULATIONS LASTED THROUGH THE WELCOME BANQUET HE HOSTED FOR THE CODEL ON JANUARY 1 FOLLOWING THE MEETING.

9. THE FOREGOING MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S DEPARTURE FOR THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE AND WAS NOT CLEARED WITH SENATOR KENNEDY OR MEMBERS OF HIS

PARTY.

10. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT MESSAGE TO MOSCOW, TOKYO
AND SEOUL.
DEAN

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NNN

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